

Message Text

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15
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 AID-05 OMB-01 PM-04 NSC-05 SS-15

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R 270615Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6748
INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PK, IN, PFOR
SUBJECT: THE INDIANS ARE COMING?

1. A CASUAL READING OF PAKISTAN PRESS JULY 22 WOULD
INDICATE MOST IMPORTANT FOREIGN POLICY EVENT THAT DATE WAS
POLISH NATIONAL DAY. STORY THAT AMBASSADOR BAJPAI PRESENTED
CREDENTIALS PREVIOUS DAY WAS RELEGATED TO TWO LINES WITH
PICTURE ON BACK PAGE IN ALL PAPERS, SHORT MENTION ON THE
ENGLISH LANGUAGE TV NEWS AND NO MENTION AT ALL ON URDU
NEWS BROADCASTS.

2. IN STRIKING CONTRAST TO PUBLICITY GIVEN TO RENEWAL OF
TIES IN INDIAN MEDIA, AS REPORTED BY EMBASSY NEW DELHI,
RESUMPTION OF AIR AND RAIL LINKS HAS RECEIVED VERY LOW-KEY
PLAY IN PAK MEDIA, WITH ONLY SHORT ITEMS, GENERALLY ON
BACK PAGE, OF URDU AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPERS. THERE
HAS BEEN NO COVERAGE OF INDO/PAK TRAVEL TIES ON EITHER
PAK TV OR RADRG. ALL NEWSPAPER ARTICLES ON SPECIFIC
EVENTS-WHETHER IT BE CREDENTIAL PRESENTATIONS OR
RAIL SERVICE-QUOTE SAME APP STORY WITH NO INDEPENDENT
REPORTING. LID HAS ALSO BEEN PLACED ON EDITORIAL
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COMMENT WITH BOTH ENGLISH AND URDU PRESS REFRAINING

FROM ANY EDITORIALS ON INDO/PAK RELATIONS.

3. GOP TREATMENT OF INDIAN MISSION IS ALSO "BUSINESS AS USUAL". LEADER OF INDIAN ADVANCE PARTY AND SECOND SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATION FERGUSON HAS TOLD US INDIAN MISSION FACING SERIOUS HOUSING PROBLEMS IN ISLAMABAD. MFA MAY WAIT FOR 15 DAYS BEFORE APPROVING LEASE ON HOUSING REQUESTS FROM FOREIGN MISSIONS AND MINISTRY HAS CHOSEN TO WAIT THAT MAXIMUM PERIOD ON EVERY APPLICATION RECEIVED FROM INDIAN EMBASSY SO FAR. FERGUSON ALSO EXPRESSED SOME IRRITATION THAT INDIAN MISSION OFFICERS ARE UNDER CONSTANT OVERT SURVEILLANCE BY PAK INTELLIGENCE. HE REALIZES, HOWEVER, THAT THIS IS ALL PART OF THE GAME OF THE INDIANS COMING TO ISLAMABAD.

4. VERY LOW-KEY TREATMENT OF ARRIVAL OF INDIAN AMBASSADOR AND RESUMPTION OF TRAVEL LINKS, IN CONTRAST TO MEDIA TREATMENT IN NEW DELHI AND EXTENSIVE COVERAGE IN PAKISTAN WHICH WAS GIVEN TO MAY 14 INDO/PAK AGREEMENT REFLECTS SEVERAL CONCERNS ON PART OF GOP. BHUTTO HAS UNDOUBTEDLY BEEN STUNG BY OPPOSITION CRITICISM OF NORMALIZATION AND CHARGES HE HAS SOLD-OUT TO NEW DELHI. HE THEREFORE DOES NOT WANT TO HIGHLIGHT THE MOVEMENT TOWARD NORMALIZATION AND GIVE MORE AMMUNITION TO HIS DOMESTIC CRITICS. ALSO-AS EMBASSY DELHI NOTES-UNLIKE COMMENTARY IN DELHI PRESS, THE GOP DOES NOT SEE THE RECENT MOVES AS THE END OF THE SIMLA PROCESS, BUT MERELY ANOTHER STEP ON THE LONG ROAD TO THE ULTIMATE GOAL AND THE SINE QUA NON OF NORMALIZATION-SETTLEMENT OF THE KASHMIR DISPUTE.
BYROADE

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